



30. (New) The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the judging counter is cleared when the lengthwise distance is farther than a preestablished distance.

31. (New) The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the judging counter is increased when the preceding vehicle is in a vehicle evacuation region which is established in predetermined left and right areas around the travel path of the own vehicle at a plurality of distance divisions ahead of the own vehicle.

32. (New) The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the distance divisions comprise a first division near the own vehicle, a second division in front of the first division and a third division in front of the second division.

33. (New) A travel control system for controlling the travel of an own vehicle at least based on the output signal from the vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus described in claim 29.